

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 21097 201459Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 IO-13 SAM-01 EB-07 OMB-01 /096 W

----- 076220

R 201447Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3123

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL MC NATO BRUSSELS

CINCPAC

USCINCEUR

EUDAC STUTTGART GER

DA WASHDC

S E C R E T PARIS 21097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR CH

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE CHINA TRIP OF GENERAL
MERY

REFS: (A) IR 6832 0366 76 DTG USDAO PARIS 132011Z JUL
76

(B) IR 6932 0364 76 DTG USDAO PARIS 132019Z JUL
76

(C) PARIS 16236

1. QUAI DESK OFFICER FOR CHINA SAID THAT THE QUAI HAD
BEEN FILLED IN IN GENERAL TERMS CONCERNING THE VISIT TO
THE PRC OF GENERAL MERY, FRENCH CHIEF OF STAFF. THE
MILITARY IMPRESSIONS WERE THE SAME AS THOSE CITED REFS
A. AND B. AS FOR POLITICAL COMMENTS, THE QUAI SAID THAT
MERY AND HIS STAFF HAD FOUND THAT THE LECTURES ON THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 21097 201459Z

DANGERS OF SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM WERE SO EXAGGERATED

-- AND THE CHINESE MILITARY COUNTER-PREPARATION SO INCOMMENSURABLY LIGHT -- THAT THEY BELIEVED A PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF CITING THE SOVIET MENACE WAS TO MAINTAIN DOMESTIC ORDER. THE CHINESE WERE CLEARLY PLEASED BY GENERAL MERY'S ARTICLE ON FRENCH MILITARY POLICY (REF. C) AND NEVER MISSED AN OCCASION TO TIE THIS FRENCH VIEW (OF GISCARD AS WELL AS MERY) INTO THEIR OWN THESIS ON THE SOVIET MENACE. MERY WAS CAREFUL NOT TO ENDORSE THEIR INTERPRETATIONS.

2. AS FOR THE PERSONALITIES WHOM HE MET, MERY THOUGHT THAT THE "FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF", YANG CH'ENG-WU, WAS A VERY ORDINARY OFFICER WHO WAS PROBABLY A FIGUREHEAD WITHOUT REAL POWER. LI TE-SHENG WAS MORE IMPRESSIVE; HIS INTELLIGENCE AND SENSE OF COMMAND IMPRESSED MERY AS SHOWING HE WAS PLAYING AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CHINA.

3. MERY AND HIS PARTY WERE STRUCK BY THE MANIFOLD ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN THE PROVINCES WHERE THEY WERE INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AS WELL AS MILITARY STRUCTURE. MERY'S BRIEFING PAPERS HAD SOMEWHAT PREPARED THEM FOR THIS PHENOMENON, BUT THEY WERE STILL SURPRISED. ACCORDING TO THE QUAI OFFICER MERY WAS NOT, HOWEVER, ABLE TO GAIN ANY INSIGHT INTO THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL STRUGGLE. ONE INTERESTING NOTE WAS THE MATERIALLY PRIVILEGED POSITION OF THE MILITARY. MERY -- AND PARTICULARLY THE FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM ON THEIR FIRST VISIT TO MILITARY OFFICES -- FOUND THAT THE MILITARY QUARTERS WERE ALL QUITE LUXURIOUS BY CHINESE STANDARDS, NOTICEABLY BETTER THAN THOSE OF THE CIVILIANS. OVERALL, MERY FOUND THE MILITARY RELAXED AS THOUGH THEY WERE NOT THE TARGETS OF THE CURRENT ANTI-TENG CAMPAIGN EVEN THOUGH HE HAD BEEN THEIR CHIEF OF STAFF. SINCE THE CONVERSATION DID NOT TOUCH ON THESE SUBJECTS; MERY HAD ONLY A VERY GENERAL IMPRESSION OF SELF-CONFIDENCE.

4. THE TRIPS TO CHINA OF PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 21097 201459Z

PRESIDENT GISCARD WERE MENTIONED, BUT THE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF THEM ARE NOW STARTING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES. CHIRAC'S VISIT WILL PROBABLY BE IN NOVEMBER, AND GISCARD'S IN 1977, BUT THEIR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS IN CHINA COULD CHANGE THE TIMING.
GAMMON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS, MILITARY POLICIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS21097
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760279-0173
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760741/aaaabjjh.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE CHINA TRIP OF GENERAL MERY
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, FR, CH, (MERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006